

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process of producing a foam sheet comprising:

forming a foamable composition into a sheet having a thickness of 1 μm to 10 mm, said composition comprising an acid or base generator that generates an acid or a base, respectively, due to an action of an active energy beam, said composition further comprising a polymeric decomposing compound that has a decomposing foamable functional group that decomposes and eliminates one or more types of low boiling point volatile substances by reacting with the acid or base;

irradiating the sheet with an active energy beam; and

foaming the sheet, wherein

the decomposing foamable functional group is selected from the group consisting of a tert-butyl group, a tert-butyloxycarbonyl group, a keto acid group, a keto acid ester group, a urethane group and a carbonate group.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is foamed by heating as necessary and then irradiated with the active energy beam.

4. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the forming step comprises extrusion forming.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A process according to claim, 1 wherein the sheet is foamed by heating after irradiating with the active energy beam.

7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim, 1 wherein the foamable composition is formed into a sheet having a thickness of 1 μm to 100 μm .

8. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the foamable composition comprises the acid generator, and the decomposing foamable functional group is a tert-butyl group, a tert-butyloxycarbonyl group, a keto acid group, or a keto acid ester group.

9. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the foamable composition comprises the base generator, and the decomposing foamable functional group is an urethane group or a carbonate group.